

Social Sciences

Advanced Placement Psychology

Elective Full Year

Grade(s)11-12

Advanced Placement

Prerequisite:

A in A level American Studies or B+ in Honors, or B in AP US History; Social Science teacher recommendation; successful entrance testing. In most cases, students who have taken Psychology are not eligible to take AP Psychology.

Advanced Placement Psychology is the equivalent of a college introductory psychology course. It explores human behavior and the mind. It addresses such questions as: "What makes us who we are? What are the biological bases of behavior? How do we learn? What are sensation and perception? What is adolescence? What is mental illness and how is it treated? What motivates people?" Classes include a combination of discussions, lectures, films and presentations. A variety of theories will be examined including Freud, Skinner, Piaget, and Kagan. Students should develop a better understanding of themselves and the forces acting upon them, as well as improve their critical thinking and writing skills. AP students should expect that the reading, writing, and discussions reflect demands appropriate to a college course. There will be research project. Students must take the AP exam in the spring.

Advanced Placement United States History

Elective Full Year

Grade(s)11 or 12

Advanced Placement

Prerequisite:

A in the 2nd semester of the required Social Science course of the previous year, successful entrance testing and successful completion of summer work.

AP United States History is intended for students who are ready for the challenge of a college level course. A variety of approaches will be used in covering the American experience from the pre-Columbian through the post Vietnam era. Students making a commitment to Advanced Placement should expect the reading and writing demands appropriate to a college course. Successful completion of summer reading and assignments are mandatory for remaining in the course when classes begin in September. This course is open to juniors and seniors. Juniors accepted into this course will take either AP English (Language and Composition) or Grade 11 Honors English. These will replace the junior American Studies requirement. Students must take the AP exam in the spring and will participate in a modified performance assessment in June.

American History from 1763 to 1877

Required Full Year

Grade(s)10

A Level

Prerequisite:

None

This is the first year of a two-year course in American history. Following a chronological approach, the course begins with the colonial era and continues through Reconstruction. Students will study the causes and consequences of the American Revolution, as well as the development of the Constitution. Other topics of study include the early national period, the reform movements of the 1800s, Jacksonian democracy and westward expansion. The year will conclude with a study of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Students will continue to develop their skills working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing. Assessment strategies include written and oral reports, objective questions, open-response questions and document based questions

Social Sciences

American Studies

Required Full Year
Grade(s)11
Honors or A Level
Prerequisite:
Teacher recommendation

This is the second year of a two-year course in American history. Following a chronological approach, the course begins with a review of the Reconstruction era and continues to the present day. All of the traditional aspects of US History and English are part of this course. Students study these subjects with two teachers. Classes are scheduled during consecutive periods, providing flexibility in grouping students into different combinations. This course provides students with insight into the relationships among our literary, cultural, artistic, philosophical and scientific traditions that have created a diverse but common American heritage. Students will continue to develop their skills in working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing. There are some common assignments and a variety of assessments are used including written, visual and oral reports, objective questions, open response questions and document-based questions. All students will participate in Performance Assessment at the end of the second semester.

"By the People"

Required
Grade(s)12
A Level
Prerequisite:
None

This course is designed to provide seniors with an understanding of their role in the local, state, national and global community. This course will also review the purpose, principles and practices of American government. Students will investigate their rights and responsibilities as American citizens and how to exercise these rights and responsibilities at the local, state, national and international levels. Current issues, class discussions, guest speakers, research and a service learning project provide students the opportunity to explore various aspects of their local and global community. Students continue to develop their skills as critical thinkers when analyzing evidence, issues and arguments. This course meets four days per cycle.

Economics

Elective Semester
Grade(s)11-12
A Level
Prerequisite:
None

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to economics. Following the guidelines of the Department of Education Frameworks, this course examines the allocation of scarce resources and the economic reasoning used by government agencies and by people as consumers, producers, savers, investors, workers and voters. Key elements include the study of scarcity, supply and demand, market structures, the role of government, national income determination, money and the role of financial institutions, economic stabilization and trade.

Honors Topics: Asian and African History

Elective Full Year
Grade(s)11-12
Honors
Prerequisite:
Teacher recommendation

This course is designed to enrich students' knowledge of Africa and Asia from ancient times to the present. Students will begin their study investigating early societies in Asia and Africa. Through the use of primary source documents, research, written, oral and visual reports, students study the evolution of society, religion, government, economics, philosophy and the arts in these regions. The course will conclude by examining the role the various regions of Asia and Africa play in the world today.

Social Sciences

Honors Topics: Modern European History

Elective Full Year
Grade(s)11-12
Honors
Prerequisite:
Teacher recommendation

This Modern European History course gives students an opportunity to acquire knowledge of European History from 1450 to the present. Through such study, students will develop the ability to weigh evidence and reach conclusions on the basis of facts. Students will learn how to extract information from primary documents and secondary sources; to use research techniques to make presentations, both written and oral; and to demonstrate analytical and interpretive skills of good scholarship. Students will present all research findings using both oral and written formats.

Psychology

Elective Semester
Grade(s)11-12
Honors or A Level
Prerequisite:
None. In most cases, students who have taken Psychology are not eligible to take AP Psychology.

Psychology students will explore human behavior and the mind. Psychology provides an overview of many of the areas of psychology including social psychology, adolescence, methods of research, consciousness, learning, neuroscience, personality, and abnormal behavior and therapy. Classes will include a combination of discussions, lectures, films, and presentations. A variety of theories will be examined. Students should learn to think critically with psychology as they improve their critical thinking skills. Further, they should develop a better understanding of themselves and the forces acting upon them. Students seeking honors credit must execute a written agreement with the teacher for additional work.

Sociology

Elective Semester
Grade(s)11-12
A Level
Prerequisite:
None

Students will explore human society in a variety of ways. This will involve the investigation of such social institutions as the family, politics, education, economics, and work. Sociological research will be used throughout the course to conduct surveys, interviews, and experiments on various topics. Additional topics of study will include social group dynamics and organization, as well as crime and sociology in law. Community service learning is incorporated in the course.

World Civilizations

Required Full Year
Grade(s)9
A Level
Prerequisite:
None

The study of world history begins with the cultures of China, India, Japan and Africa. In the first semester, students will also investigate the foundations of medieval Europe and the development of the Islamic Empire. The second semester examines Europe from the Renaissance through World War II. Politics and diplomacy are studied as well as the social, economic, religious, scientific and technological factors that have shaped world history.

Students will develop skills in working with primary sources, research, discussion, reading and writing skills. Assessment strategies include written and oral reports, objective questions, open-response questions and document-based questions.
